GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3095
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
SELF ASSESSMENT OF INCOME TAX
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to promote self-assessment of income by tax-payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have implemented any schemes to improve the image of income-tax department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): Income-tax Act, 1961 has always provided for self-assessment of income by tax payers. Every person is required to file his return of income if his total income in a year exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to tax and has to pay tax on the same prior to filing the return. Such self-assessment is facilitated by an ongoing process of simplification of tax laws and procedures. Some of the measures taken recently include:-

(i) introduction of simplified forms of returns such as the one page form (known as SARAL) for non-corporate tax payers;

(ii) providing that acknowledgement of a return filed may be taken as acceptance of the income declared, except in a very small percentage of cases taken up for verification on the basis of specific information.

(c): Yes Sir.

(d): Several Schemes have been introduced to provide better tax payer service and improve the image of Income-tax Department. These are as under:

(1) `Samman` Scheme was introduced from Assessment Year 1998-99 to inculcate a sense of pride among the tax payers in discharging their legitimate dues and to establish social recognition of such contribution by the tax payers to the national cause. Under the Scheme, eligible individual income tax payers in each of the three categories of business, profession and salary are awarded Samman on the basis of the income declared in the income-tax returns. It is a broad based scheme designed to ensure that an individual top tax payer gets Samman at every place where there is an income-tax office. It is awarded both at National as well as at regional levels.

(2) Citizen`s Charter was introduced on 27th November, 1998 and its implementation is being monitored.

(3) Direct Taxes India-Vision 2005, dedicated to the nation on 07-04-2000, envisages revamping and expanding of Public Relation Offices by introduction of Facilitation Counters at various income-tax offices.

(4) Under the `Sahayata (Helpline Income-tax)` schemeintroduced from 1st August, 2000, a special cell designated as `Helpline Income-tax` was formed in Delhi to function as the focal point for bringing to the Department`s notice urgent and serious problems of individual and corporate tax payers. This cell is working under the supervision of an officer of the level of Commissioner of Income-tax and will be extended to other stations in due course.

(5) Under the `Suvidha` scheme introduced from 1st August, 2000, 2102 computerised branches of all the nationalised banks in 133 towns and cities covered by One-by-Six Scheme, have been authorised to receive direct tax payments with effect from 1st August, 2000 in addition to the existing authorised branches of different banks.